



BITS OF GOLD

Montana Talking Book Library

Regional Library of the National Library Service
For the Blind and Physically Handicapped
(NLS/BPH)

Volume 106, Number 2

June 2006

NAMELESS IN MONTANA?

Please make sure your name is on order forms and other messages. We sometimes receive book requests that we can't process because we don't know who sent them. The same is true of voice mail. If you are leaving a phone message, please be sure to say and spell your last name and include your phone number.

NOBODY SPRING CLEANS LIKE YOU DO!!

Your response to our spring cleaning request was wonderful! A record number of nearly 20,000 overdue or long forgotten books were returned.

UP FOR MORE SPRING CLEANING?

Magazines that you received in plastic cassette containers need to be returned. We need the containers back even if you no longer have the magazines- we're running out of containers! We do **not** need magazines that came in paper envelopes. Many thanks for your help in getting our stray books and magazines home.

NEW NEWSLETTER

Reader Advisor Sandy Stanton announces a newsletter for younger readers, *Little Bits of Gold*. It will be published twice a year beginning in the fall of 2006.

HOLIDAY

The library will be closed on Tuesday, July 4, to celebrate Independence Day.

Librarian's Log: from the desk of Christie Briggs, Regional Librarian **NLS Bestselling Titles Arriving Sooner!**

NLS is contracting with several audio book publishing companies to purchase popular titles and customizing them for use by our patrons. These titles are made available to our readers within days to weeks (instead of months) of the time they hit the commercial bestseller lists.

Biennial National Library Service Conference

It was a privilege to take another staff person with me to the NLS conference in Portland, Maine in April. Diane Gunderson gave excellent workshops on our local digital recording program. Further plans were unveiled by NLS on the conversion to a digital format (books and machines) by 2008, giving Veterans priority. By 2012, all Montana patrons who want a digital player and cartridge books will be able to receive them. NLS is already recording current titles in a digital format in preparation for a "flash memory cartridge" book. The "flash memory cartridge" (one per book), along with digital machines, is currently being developed. We will continue to provide patrons with cassette books and players if they wish.

Web-Braille Changes

Web-Braille online services were down for approximately a week in April while necessary changes were made. NLS received many positive comments from patrons nationwide on the value of Web-Braille during this period. NLS staff worked feverishly to implement necessary changes and return operations to normal. Thank you for your patience and understanding during this time. The major change that patrons will notice is an agreement patrons must "check" prior to downloading each book or volumes of books.

Southwest Outreach Trips

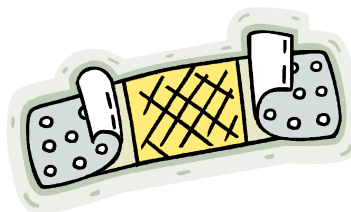
Janet, Sandy and I had the privilege of giving presentations about our library services around the state this spring. These included groups in Anaconda, Lima and Dillon, as well as attending the Great Falls Community and Helena Senior Health Fairs. Similar to our much-appreciated mail carriers, "Neither rain nor sleet nor snow will keep us from our appointed rounds!"

Keystone Systems User Conference

Carolyn, Lee and I attended the User Conference in Salt Lake City on our library database. We learned about new features being developed with the next upgrade in software.

EQUIPMENT CLINIC

Help your cassette player have a long and useful life by following these tips:



- Don't play your standard machine plugged in—it will eventually overcharge it (this does not pertain to the “easy” machine).
- Here is a quick tip for recharging your machine:
 - Plug-in and charge battery 8 to 12 hours
 - Play unplugged 8 to 12 hours
 - Plug-in and charge battery 8 to 12 hours
 - Keep repeating
- Keep food, beverages, pets, and heat away from your machine.
- If you are having problems with your machine, call “Dr. Lee” at the library. He can solve many problems over the phone.
- If you are returning equipment, always call the library so we know whether or not you need a replacement.

PATRON PICKS

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| RC 59322 | <u>Seeking Enlightenment . . . Hat by Hat: Skeptic's Path to Religion</u> by Nevada Barr (biography) |
| RC 24223 | <u>Korean War Vol. 1</u> by Donald Knox |
| RC 32342 | <u>Korean War Vol. 2</u> by Donald Knox |
| RC 60092 | <u>City Room</u> by Arthur Gelb (a journalist's autobiography) |

RESOURCES OF INTEREST

- Hadley School for the Blind offers more than 90 distance education courses for the blind and their family members and for professionals in the blindness field. 1-800-323-4238
- Recordings for Recovery is a music library that is available through the mail to the visually impaired, homebound, or those residing in nursing homes. 1-800-798-1192.

**Montana Talking Book Library
1515 East Sixth Avenue
PO Box 201800
Helena, MT 59620-1800**

Free Matter for the Blind

Address Service Requested

This newsletter is available on cassette, e-mail and large print upon request or visit our website: <http://msl.mt.gov/tbl>

LIBRARY HOURS: Mon-Fri 8am-5pm
PHONE NUMBERS: 1-800-332-3400
WEBOPAC: <http://klasweb.msl.mt.gov>

PHONE HOURS: Mon-Fri 9am-5pm
(in Helena) 406-444-2064
WEBBRAILLE: <http://loc.gov/nls/braille>

REGIONAL LIBRARIAN:
COORD. VOL /DIR RECORDING SVC:
COLLECTION MANAGER:
MACHINE LENDING AGENT:
READERS' ADVISORS:

Christie Briggs, cbriggs@mt.gov
Diane Gunderson, dgunderson@mt.gov
Carolyn Meier, cameier@mt.gov
Lee Madison

Patrons with last names A-G contact:
Patrons with last names H-O contact:
Patrons with last names P-Z contact:

Janet Hunter, jahunter@mt.gov
Sandra Stanton, sstanton@mt.gov
Lee Madison, lmadison@mt.gov
Janet Hunter

BITS OF GOLD EDITOR:

For patron requests or contact information, e-mail us at: mtbl@mt.gov

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